

7

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 27LOS ANGELES WEEKLY (CA)
8 June 1984

STAT

SNOOPING ON THE SPOOKS

Covert Action Information Bulletin

by Marc Cooper

The *Covert Action Information Bulletin* is perhaps one of the most important little magazines in the country. It comes out only two or three, sometimes four times a year. It's well laid-out but has no color and virtually no advertising. Its circulation is well under 10,000. Its name is rarely mentioned on the news, and other reporters make a point of not attributing it as their source. But it has so frightened the CIA that the agency persuaded Congress to virtually outlaw the magazine. The new law had the opposite effect. Today, *Covert Action Information Bulletin's* circulation is larger than ever before, in spite of the Agent Identities Protection Act, which was intended to knock the publication out of existence.

The goal of the magazine is simple: to relentlessly expose the activities of the CIA, its affiliated organizations and its operatives. Started just five years ago in the apartment of its editors, *The Bulletin* now occupies modest offices in Washington D.C.'s National Press Building. Not a day goes by in which one or more major news organizations doesn't call *The Bulletin* to get the "real story" on this or that suspected operation or individual. And hardly ever does the magazine get its due credit for helping out the megabuck-backed Big Media that so often relies on its help.

Two of the magazine's three editors, attorney William Schaap and writer Ellen Ray, were recently in Los Angeles. They spoke with the *Weekly's* Marc Cooper.

Weekly: *The most recent issue of your magazine disputes the Reagan administration claim that the U.S. had no intelligence operatives in Grenada before the time of the invasion. Do you continue to stand by that claim?*

Schaap: Absolutely. It's enough to just look at some of the statements from the new interim government. We know for a fact that there were many CIA agents on Grenada for a long time prior to the invasion. *Newsweek* reported that one of the agents worked at the medical school. *The New York Times* ran a piece on a secret meeting between CIA Director William Casey and a group of senators, in which Casey confirmed that a large number of the CIA agents on the island were removed during the flights that returned the medical students to the United States.

Not only had the administration always advertised its desire to get rid of the Grenadian government, but in addition it is a country that is very easy to infiltrate. There were a number of retired Americans living there. There were a thousand students at the medical school.

Weekly: *Do you think there may have been some agents among the students?*

Ray: We know so! In the *Newsweek* article we mentioned one agent is named — Jim Pfeister. And older medical students told the other students that he had been a U.S. consul in Laos during the Vietnam War but had tired of the State Department and wanted to learn a new profession. But when the invasion happened the students saw Pfeister using a walkie-talkie to actually direct the American troops.

Weekly: *Is there any information to indicate CIA involvement in the events prior*

to the coup in Grenada, or can we assume that the fall of the Bishop government was strictly an internal division?

Ray: No, it's more complicated. In fact, we have so far determined that Vice President George Bush was in the Barbados the day after Bishop was killed. He was meeting personally with Prime Minister Tom Adams. It may be Bush was there before, but we cannot yet document that. But at that time Adams was already telling reporters that Bush had proposed a so-called rescue mission for Bishop, who had been under house arrest.

Schaap: It seems very clear that the U.S. and the CIA wanted Bishop killed. One of the things we learned by studying Grenada is that the four years of U.S. destabilization attempts had not worked. From Carter through Reagan they had tried everything: economic pressure, media campaigns, violent attacks, bombings — but nothing had worked. It is clear that in the early days of the Reagan administration it was decided to work toward the direct overthrow of the government. They had to invent an excuse that would justify an invasion, and, of course, it also meant that Bishop would have to be killed. We know that the CIA had agents infiltrated into the upper levels of the Grenadian Army and the ruling New Jewel Movement.

Weekly: *How can you be certain of that?*

Ray: I think a reading of the New Jewel Central Committee documents seized by the Pentagon will show that. Of course, of

Continued